on North Eastern States highlighting tourism products has been brought out by the Department of Tourism.

5. 10% allocation of the overall budget of the Department of Tourism for the North Eastern Region.

(e) Does not arise.

Study on safety of Mullapperiyar Dam

673. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the epicenter of the recent earthquake in Kerala is very close to Mullapperiyar Dam;

(b) whether Government propose to conduct a detailed study on the safety of the Years long old Dam in view of the frequent earthquake in that locality;

(c) whether Government would consider to constitute a panel of scientists to evolve a scientific opinion in this matter; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The epicenter of recent earthquakes in Kerala are about 50 kms from Mullaperiyar dam.

(b) to (d) As per the inspection conducted by the project authorities following the International guidelines, no damage has been reported due to recent earthquakes. At present, there is no proposal to constitute a panel of scientists to conduct any detailed study.

Closure of canals in Orissa

674. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that closure of several canals in Orissa is adversely affecting the Rabi irrigation and aggravating the drought situation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is even causing a drinking water problem in several districts of State; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Due to drought situation and less availability of water in Hirakud reservoir, closure of several canals was inevitable, thus affecting Rabi irrigation and causing drinking water problem in some districts of Orissa.

(c) Water from various sources like Indravati reservoir and Power houses at Burla and Chipilima are being released into Mahanadi to meet drinking water and irrigation water requirements in the affected districts.

Shortage of irrigation water in Gohana, Haryana

675. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in the village of Gohana sub division of Haryana have been facing an acute shortage of canal water meant for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Government of Haryana has informed that since the availability of water in Bhakra Reservoir and Yamuna river being less, the rotation programme has been divided into five groups instead of earlier four groups and all channels falling in the territorial jurisdiction of Gohana area have been receiving their share as per the availability of water during their turns.

Private Sector participation in irrigation

676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for encouraging private sector participation in irrigation sector;